

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 SNM-02 AGR-20

EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /152 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8855

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3182

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: JUNTA VIEWS: GENERAL MENDOZA

REF: SANTIAGO 3154

1. SUMMARY: JUNTA MEMBER MENDOZA FULLY SUPPORTS OUR JOINT NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT, ASSERTS CARABINERO MISSION AND FUNCTIONS UNCHANGED BY TRANSFER TO MINISTRY DEFENSE, AND REPORTS JUNTA ATTEMPTING SUBSTITUTE TECHNICAL FOR POLITICAL ORIENTATION IN AGRI-CULTURAL SECTOR. END SUMMARY

2. I MADE SEPARATE CALLS ON THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT JUNTA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATION. HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING WITH JUNTA MEMBER MENDOZA JUNE 3 FOLLOW:

3. NARCOTICS CONTROL. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CARABINERO COOPERATION IN OUR JOINT NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE. MENDOZA SAID IN HIS VIEW NARCOTICS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR CHILE WHICH MERITS ATTENTION. HE NOTED THE DIFFICULTY OF CONTROLLING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND CHILE'S NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR TRAINING EFFORTS AND SAID HE HAD TRIED TO ORGANIZE CARABINERO NARCOTICS UNIT AROUND PEOPLE WHO HAD HAD SUCH
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TRAINING OR WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. HE PROMISED

TO CONTINUE FULL COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS EFFORT.

4. TRANSFER OF CARABINEROS TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. MENDOZA SAID CARABINERO MISSION AND FUNCTIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TRANSFER WAS TO REMOVE CARABINEROS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL BY MINISTRY INTERIOR GIVEN SAD EXPERIENCE UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT, PARTICULARLY UNDER UP GOVERNMENT. AT THAT TIME, CARABINEROS PLACED IN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION AND SIMULTANEOUS RESPONSIBILITY EXECUTE COURT ORDERS AND YET OBEY MINISTRY INTERIOR WHICH FORBADE THEIR EXECUTION. CHILE WILL RETURN TO NORMAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. ONE CAN HOPE THAT THAT WILL NOT GIVE RISE A REPETITION OF THE UP EXPERIENCE. HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT SHOULD, THE CARABINEROS NO LONGER WILL BE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL USE BY INTERIOR MINISTRY.

5. RABASA VISIT. IN COMMENTING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MENDOZA REMARKED THAT RABASA HAD BEEN QUITE SURPRISED DURING HIS VISIT AT THE ORDER AND NORMALCY PREVAILING IN SANTIAGO. HE SAID THAT, PRIOR TO HIS VISIT, RABASA APPARENTLY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT CITIZENS COULD MOVE FREELY ABOUT THE STREETS OF SANTIAGO.

6. AGRICULTURE. I INQUIRED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURE, ONE OF THE FUNCTIONAL AREAS FOR WHICH MENDOZA IS RESPONSIBLE WITHIN THE JUNTA. MENDOZA SAID DESPITE THE DAMAGE DONE TO AGRICULTURE UNDER ALLENDE, IT MUST BE ADMITTED, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT THE PROBLEM IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IS OF EVEN LONGER STANDING. FROM ITS INCEPTION, AGRARIAN REFORM IN CHILE WAS CONDUCTED ESSENTIALLY AS A POLITICAL OPERATION WITHOUT REGARD FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THE RESULT WAS THAT NOBODY WORKED AND PRODUCTION SLUMPED. THE JUNTA HAS HAD TO DISMANTLE THE OLD STRUCTURE IN AGRICULTURE AND IS NOW TRYING TO REPLACE IT WITH ONE WHICH IS TECHNICALLY RATHER THAN POLITICALLY ORIENTED. THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS EFFORT CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE TWO OR THREE YEARS.
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